IN THE CLAIMS

1-2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim ~~2~~ 6, wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of through bores; and
wherein said base of said bracket is for affixing to the substrate.

4-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) ~~The joints as defined in claim 5~~ Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:
a bracket;
wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear wall;
wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to a substrate; and
wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:
a) a base; and
b) a pair of side walls;
wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against the substrate;
wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of longitudinal edges; and
wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in lateral cross section, wherein each side wall of said

bracket has a plurality of through bores; further comprising a track wall;

wherein said track wall consists of:

A) a base; and

B) a pair of side walls;

wherein said base of said track wall has a pair of longitudinal edges;

wherein said base of said track wall has a pair of through bores;

wherein said pair of through bores in said track wall align with said pair of through bores in said base of said bracket; and

wherein said pair of side walls of said track wall extend upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said base of said track wall, respectively, so as to allow said track wall to have a generally and substantially U-shape in lateral cross section, wherein said track wall sits in said bracket so as to allow said bracket to capture said track wall.

7. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein said base of said track wall abuts against said base of said bracket.

8. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein said side walls of said track wall abut against said side walls of said bracket, respectively.

9. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim ~~5~~ 6; further comprising a base plate;
wherein said base plate sits in said bracket.

10. (original) The joints as defined in claim 9, wherein said base plate abuts against said base of said track wall.

11. (original) The joints as defined in claim 9, wherein said base plate has a pair of through bores;
wherein said pair of through bores in said base plate align with said pair of through bores in said base of said track wall, respectively; and
wherein said pair of through bores in said base plate align with said pair of through bores in said base of said bracket, respectively.

12. (original) The joints as defined in claim 11; further comprising a stud;
wherein said stud extends from said bracket.

13. (original) The joints as defined in claim 12, wherein said stud has an end;
wherein said end of said stud abuts against said pair of side walls of said bracket;
wherein said end of said stud is affixed to said pair of side walls of said bracket;
wherein said end of said stud abuts against said base of said track wall when said base plate is not present so as to allow said base of said track wall to distribute the load of said stud to said bracket; and
wherein said end of said stud abuts against said base plate when said base plate is present so as to allow said base plate to distribute the load of said stud to said track wall and ultimately to said bracket.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) ~~The joints as defined in claim 14~~ Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:
a bracket;
wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear wall;
wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to a substrate; and
wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:
a) a base; and
b) a pair of side walls;
wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against the substrate;
wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of longitudinal edges; and
wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in lateral cross section; further comprising at least two diagonal braces;
wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of said at least two diagonal braces abuts against a respective side wall of said bracket; and
wherein each of said at least two diagonal braces is affixed to said respective side wall of said bracket.

16. (currently amended) ~~The joints as defined in claim 14~~ Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:

a bracket;
wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear wall;
wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to a substrate; and
wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:
a) a base; and
b) a pair of side walls;
wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against the substrate;
wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of longitudinal edges; and
wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in lateral cross section; further comprising at least two diagonal braces;
wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of said at least two diagonal braces is flat.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) ~~The joints as defined in claim 17~~ Joints for constructing a shear wall, comprising:
a bracket;
wherein said bracket is integrally formed with said shear wall;
wherein said bracket is for attaching said shear wall to a substrate; and

wherein said bracket is for preventing uplift of said shear wall, wherein said bracket consists of:

a) a base; and

b) a pair of side walls;

wherein said base of said bracket is for abutting against the substrate;

wherein said base of said bracket has a pair of longitudinal edges; and

wherein said pair of side walls of said bracket extend upwardly from said pair of longitudinal edges of said base of said bracket, respectively, so as to allow said bracket to have a generally and substantially U-shape in lateral cross section; further comprising at least two diagonal braces;

wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend diagonally outwardly from said bracket, wherein each of said at least two diagonal brace has an end; and

wherein said end of each of said at least two diagonal braces has a plurality of through bores, wherein said plurality of through bores in said end of each of said at least two diagonal braces align with corresponding through bores in said respective side wall of said bracket.

19. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein one joint is an intermediate base joint;

wherein the substrate is a concrete foundation;

wherein said track wall extends outwardly from both ends of said base of said bracket;

wherein said pair of through bores in said base of said bracket, said pair of through bores in said track wall, and ~~said~~ 2 pair of through bores in ~~said~~ a base plate

receive a pair of anchor bolts extending upwardly out of the concrete foundation; ~~that~~ wherein said anchor bolts ultimately receive a pair of nuts, respectively;

wherein ~~said~~ a stud extends centrally upwardly from said base plate so as to be straddled by said pair of nuts; and

wherein said at least two diagonal braces are four, a pair of each extending from each side wall of said bracket, diagonally outwardly in opposite directions.

20. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein one joint is an end base joint;

wherein the substrate is a concrete foundation;

wherein said track wall extends outwardly from an outermost end of said base of said bracket;

wherein only an outermost one of said pair of through bores in said base of said bracket, an aligned one of said pair of through bores in said track wall, and an aligned one of said pair of through bores in said base plate receive an anchor bolt extending upwardly out of the concrete foundation that ultimately receives a nut;

wherein said stud extends upwardly from an outermost end of said base plate; and

wherein said at least two diagonal braces extend diagonally inwardly.

21. (currently amended) The joints as defined in claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein one joint is a ceiling and floor joint;

wherein the substrate is an upper header and a lower header that are spaced-apart by floor joists and a stud;

wherein two brackets are utilized;

wherein said base of one bracket is for abutting against said upper header;

wherein said base of the other bracket is for abutting against the lower header;

wherein said other bracket is in alignment with said one bracket;

wherein two track walls are utilized;

wherein one track wall extends outwardly from both ends of said base of said one bracket;

wherein the other track wall extends outwardly from both ends of said base of said other bracket;

wherein said through bores in said base of said one track wall, said pair of through bores in said base of said one bracket, a pair of through bores in the upper header, a pair of through bores in the lower header, said pair of through bores in said base of said other bracket, and said pair of through bores in said base of said other track wall receive a pair of through bolts;

wherein two studs are utilized;

wherein one stud extends centrally upwardly from said base of said one track wall so as to be straddled by said pair of through bolts;

wherein said one stud is aligned with the stud of the substrate;

wherein the other stud depends centrally from said base of said other track wall so as to be straddled by said pair of through bolts;

wherein the other stud is aligned with the stud of the substrate; and

wherein said at least two diagonal braces are eight, a pair of each extend from each side wall of each bracket, diagonally outwardly in opposite directions.